



Superior Court  
00100.861.

## Mission Statement

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### **Superior Court:**

- Adjudicate all cases, both criminal and civil, in a just and timely manner
- Assure due process and equal protection under the law
- Promote access to justice to all persons

### **Drug Court:**

Enhance community safety and security by holding substance abusing individuals accountable for their actions while providing them an opportunity for treatment to develop and change their life skills and habits so they can become responsible and productive members of their families and society.

### **LIFT Court (Living in Families Together) Family Therapeutic Court:**

LIFT Court's mission is to achieve safe and timely permanent child placement by providing structure, discipline, accountability and encouragement to parents through judicially managed community based service.

## Function

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**Superior Court:** The Superior Court is a general jurisdiction court. It has the responsibility of adjudicating matters coming before it over which it has original or appellate jurisdiction, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Washington. This includes felony criminal, civil, juvenile, domestic relations, adoption, guardianship, paternity, probate, domestic violence, and mental illness cases. The court is charged with resolving cases in an accessible and expeditious fashion.

**Drug Court:** Clallam county operates two Drug Court Programs for those charged with crimes: Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court. The Drug Courts are a minimum one year voluntary treatment-based program for individuals in need of intensive treatment for addictive disease. Drug Court offers an alternative to criminal prosecution.

Since its inception, Drug Court has served 1321 participants with 416 graduates. Drug Court reduced recidivism, returned participants to work and school, reunited families and participants became active members of the community reducing need for community services. Clallam County has been able to provide more services and treatment opportunities to more participants than any county of comparable size.

**LIFT Court** (Living in Families Together) operates for high risk dependency cases that involve mental illness and/or alcoholism. Participants are referred by the court, social workers, attorneys, treatment providers or themselves. Participants are reviewed on a weekly basis for parenting, housing, legal, recovery/mental health issues and counseling compliance.

Since its inception in August 2008, LIFT Court has served 255 parents and 311 children. 71 parents have graduated, and 86 children have achieved permanency without the need for a trial. LIFT Court reduced recidivism, returned parent and children to school and/or work, reunited families, reduced the need for additional supervision, and created participants who are interested in their communities and want to be part of the greater good.

## Trends/Events

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**Zoom and Video Conferencing:** Due to the COVID Pandemic, the courts have become innovative and creative by adding Zoom meetings for courtroom participants to appear by telephone and video conference in all four courtrooms. By adding Zoom we have provided advanced access to courts for the public and court participants, including being able to provide multiple people on a call at one time.

**ITA Hearings:** Superior Court continues to experience an influx in Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA) filing hearings with the court. These cases involve individuals who are hospitalized and need further treatment but are unable to make their own decisions, therefore the court has to intervene. These hearings have to be filed and heard within 48 hours after an individual is first hospitalized. These hearings are held by Zoom or in person at the hospital with the judge, attorneys, incapacitated person and the court clerk all present and held by video directly into the courtroom for the public to see and hear. The hearings are time consuming and create courtroom congestion the ITA hearings are mandatory. Sometimes the hearings are canceled due to the incapacitated agreeing to treatment or dismissing the petition.

**Capital Offense Cases:** Clallam County has had the unfortunate, unexpected duty of handling four case filings that were filed in 2019 for First Degree Aggravated Murder. These types of cases have been typically rare in our community and are very time consuming and costly for the court system. The County has and will continue to endure these unanticipated costs of litigation for these types of cases.

**Gender Equality Accommodations:** The court has been focusing on making changes and updates within the court regarding gender equality and accommodation. We have changed our jury room bathrooms from "men" and "women" to "bathroom" to accommodate gender biases. As continue to progress we are looking at making additional changes to documents and/or introductions to reflect equality within the court system.

**Bring Your Baby to Work:** This year Superior Court has supported and participated in babies in the workplace. This is a new pilot program being implemented in the State of Washington to help support and accommodate working parents with new babies. Employees can bring their newborn infant to work with them from age 6 weeks to 6 months to help bond working parents and infants when returning to work. Superior Court has welcomed two of these requests this year.

## Goals

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**Superior Court:**

1. Provide continuous training and education for staff and judges to ensure a high level of competency and efficiency, including succession planning and future goals.
2. Continue to ensure safe and secure courtrooms for the protection of litigants, witnesses, spectators, and court personnel while working diligently to stay up-to-date by participating in Active Shooter training and by replacing old emergency radios with newer, more effective emergency radios throughout the courtrooms and offices providing for quick responses when requested.
3. Continue to efficiently manage limited resources through programs such as the Special Report Calendar (a mental health court that helps to reduce jail costs, among other advantages), Friendship Diversion (pre-trial supervisions and probation), and establishing a "flat-fee" for criminal conflict appointments and for some mental health evaluations.
4. Continue to provide 24-hour coverage for law enforcement search warrants and wire orders.
5. Devoted to working on courtroom modernization projects by making audio/visual and other technological improvements to bring the courtrooms to current standards. The public is now able to view exhibits and videos on two courtroom television monitors providing for better viewing capabilities for jurors, witnesses and the public. We also now have the ability to provide video conferencing when witnesses are unable to appear in court, and a video cart with an Elmo and laptop for participants' use during court proceedings.
6. Continue to move toward the upgrades and improvements of our new State-wide case management system called "Odyssey" while also working toward a "paperless court" through technology as resources allow. The Odyssey program provides for a more effective and efficient management of cases and reporting and provides the public with the ability to view and access cases online saving time and money.
7. Increase community connectivity and outreach by upgrading and making improvements to our existing County Superior Court website to include the latest Emergency Orders, COVID announcements, Zoom instructions, Facebook updates and other pertinent links related to court information 24/7.
8. In March of 2018 Clallam County was chosen to participate in and has been continued to be successful in a program called "Parents for Parents." This program provides education, mentoring and increased engagement in the Dependency system to promote safe and timely reunification of children with their parents. This program now offers participants two classes for strengthening and developing family relationships.
9. Maintain and update the Superior Court law library to keep the court up-to-date with current standards.
10. Developed a working relationship between Olympic Medical Center and the Court to provide direct video conferencing for court hearings to comply with the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA). Our goal is to continue to provide this option and improve the video capabilities as technology advances. Our first video ITA connection was held in the Spring of 2018, and we have held many successful video/hospital conferences since then in all three Superior Court courtrooms.

11. The Court has established a working relationship with the Sheriff's office by integrating a direct-line video conferencing connection between the courtrooms and the jail providing a more efficient handling of in-custody court cases and first appearances and multiple hearings. Our first courtroom/jail calendar was held in the spring of 2018 and continues today on a daily, regular basis without interruption.
12. Superior Court and Clallam County Online Parenting Programs developed and implemented an online parenting program course for the public to access when needing to take parenting classes. This new program saves time and money for the public and is available online as of September 2019.

**Drug Court:**

1. Provide an alternative to traditional criminal procedures for defendants committing offenses due to drug addiction.
2. Provide team training to enhance the effectiveness of the Drug Court Team and individual team members.
3. Utilize existing financial resources effectively.
4. Explore alternatives to State funded inpatient treatment placements for participants needing more help than is available through intensive outpatient treatment.
5. Continue to work with our established Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) steering committee that serves as a countywide forum charged with submitting an annual plan with the Salish Behavioral Health Organization for disposition of funds provided from the CJTA.
6. Develop a more cost effective practice for drug screen collection with associated providers.
7. Develop a Medication Assisted Therapy guideline in tune with the National Drug Court best practices.
8. In 2020 Drug Court reviewed, finalized and implemented a best practices and procedures manual establishing updated Drug Court Policy and Procedure.
9. The Drug Court CJTA Committee has been working on establishing a plan to start in-jail Substance Use Disorder treatment services while persons are residing in the county corrections facility.

**Workload Indicators**

|                        | 2018 Actual | 2019 Actual | 6/30/20 Actual |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Cases Filed:           |             |             |                |
| Criminal               | 546         | 550         | 210            |
| Civil                  | 1,141       | 1,027       | 381            |
| Domestic               | 430         | 438         | 198            |
| Probate/Guardianship   | 438         | 491         | 255            |
| Adoption/Paternity     | 80          | 82          | 50             |
| Mental Illness         | 134         | 133         | 78             |
| Juvenile Non-Offender  | 443         | 476         | 153            |
| Juvenile Offender      | 136         | 147         | 47             |
| Total Cases Filed      | 3,348       | 3,344       | 1,372          |
| Non-Trial Proceedings: |             |             |                |
| Civil/Juvenile         | 4,169       | 4,390       | 1,649          |

|                                      |        |        |       |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Criminal/Juvenile Offender           | 7,055  | 7,520  | 3,353 |
| Total Non-Trial Proceedings          | 11,224 | 11,910 | 5,002 |
| Trials:                              |        |        |       |
| Civil Non-Jury Trial                 | 48     | 51     | 20    |
| Civil Jury Trials                    | 4      | 1      | 0     |
| Criminal Jury                        | 19     | 11     | 3     |
| Total Trials                         | 71     | 63     | 23    |
| Drug Court:                          |        |        |       |
| Adult, Juvenile Court Participants   | 122    | 131    | 76    |
| Adult, Juvenile Drug Court Graduates | 21     | 15     | 3     |
| LIFT Court:                          |        |        |       |
| Adult clients served in LIFT Court   | 51     | 33     | 26    |
| Children served in LIFT Court        | 63     | 40     | 34    |

## Grant Funding Sources

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1. Department of Health and Human Services (Federal)
2. Office Administrator for the Courts (State)

## Revenues

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|                                | 2018 Actual | 2019 Actual | 6/30/20 Actual | 2021 Budget |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Taxes                          | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| Licenses and Permits           | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| Intergovernmental Revenues     | 53,105      | 89,381      | 14,387         | 580,198     |
| Charges for Goods and Services | 217,061     | 208,256     | 113,277        | 296,706     |
| Fines and Forfeits             | 1,690       | 1,034       | 140            | 0           |
| Miscellaneous Revenues         | 0           | 0           | 881            | 0           |
| Other Financing Sources        | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| Transfers In                   | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| General Tax Support            | 1,004,232   | 1,122,163   | 569,387        | 854,119     |
| Total                          | 1,276,088   | 1,420,834   | 698,072        | 1,731,023   |

## Expenditures

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|                                 | 2018 Actual | 2019 Actual | 6/30/20 Actual | 2021 Budget |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Salaries and Wages              | 705,440     | 726,961     | 358,917        | 881,440     |
| Personnel Benefits              | 155,852     | 169,789     | 75,276         | 198,976     |
| Supplies                        | 23,634      | 25,831      | 15,763         | 29,457      |
| Other Services and Charges      | 385,057     | 492,866     | 248,116        | 516,525     |
| Intergovernmental Services      | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| Capital Outlays                 | 6,105       | 5,387       | 0              | 104,625     |
| Interfund Payments for Services | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| Transfers Out                   | 0           | 0           | 0              | 0           |
| Total                           | 1,276,088   | 1,420,834   | 698,072        | 1,731,023   |

## Staffing

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|                       | 2018 Budget | 2019 Budget | 2020 Budget | 2021 Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Full Time Equivalents | 8.75        | 8.75        | 8.75        | 8.75        |

\*The Drug Court Special Revenue Fund was closed on 12/31/10 and is now a division of the Superior Court General Fund.